



THE ECHO

HALIBURTON COUNTY

TUESDAY, JUNE 27, 2006

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Stores get ready to ring in 6% GST

GREG HOEKSTRA
Staff Reporter

On July 1, Canadian shoppers will have a little extra change in their pockets, as the federal goods and services tax (GST) is set to be lowered by one per cent.

But, although many consumers may be pleased with the reduction, some small business owners are far from happy with the upcoming changes, which will initially end up costing them money.

Linda Caterazzi, owner of the Kash Landing Café in Ingoldsby, says the GST reduction is nothing but a burden for small businesses such as hers, which haven't adopted computerized systems. Because her restaurant still uses a traditional cash register, Caterazzi had to hire a company out of Lindsay to reprogram the machine, at a charge of \$90.

The Canada Revenue Agency has made it clear that business owners will not be reimbursed for any additional costs they incur while changing their registers, and that has led some entrepreneurs like Caterazzi to feel disillusioned.

"It's small people like me that always have to pay, just because we don't have the latest technology," she says. "We try to keep our place as simple

See **Larger** page 4



CASEY LESSARD/Echo

Batter's up

It's a swing... and a miss for Desmond Davies, 3, as he plays t-ball in Wilberforce. The league runs Thursday nights until the middle of August, and children can still sign up for t-ball, junior and senior baseball. More photos are on page 34.

Broadband initiative to bring the county up to speed

JENNIFER WILSON
Staff Reporter

Imagine a Haliburton High where students could walk into class, turn on a computer and within minutes, be able to see, chat and interact with their peers in Huntsville.

Or a hospital where cumbersome X-rays and CT scans are no longer mailed from location to location. Instead, with a click of a mouse, they're safely in an e-mail inbox thousands of kilometres away with only seconds

spared.

These hi-tech fantasies may soon become a reality for the Highlands thanks to Haliburton Connect. The local group recognized that Haliburton was in the dinosaur ages of technology, and knew they had to do something about it. With the assistance of hi-tech company W3 Connex, the committee made a plan to build and sustain a fibre-optic broadband network that would deliver the fastest and most capable Internet speed to the its members. These

include the county's four municipalities, school board, health services, Sir Sandford Fleming College, U-Links and a few small businesses.

"We are at least 30 years behind the technology," says Haliburton Connect president Dave Taylor. "We knew we had to take action and do something about this if we're going to remain an area that's popular to businesses, tourists and locals."

The network, which is made out of glass and uses light

See **Broadband** page 36

Bear 1 Man 1

Wilfred Doyle and a black bear fight over a ruffed grouse

MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

The way Wilfred Doyle sees it, a bear may have stolen his shoe but at least he stole the ruffed grouse from the bear.

The Carnarvon resident works for Barker Heating and Cooling. Early Friday afternoon he was driving to a work site when he came across a ruffed grouse walking across Kennis Lake Road. He tried to avoid it but the bird ended up going under his truck.

Looking in his rearview mirror, Doyle could see that the grouse was still alive so he pulled over and went to see if there was something he could do to help the poor bird.

He was bending over the bird when, suddenly, he was knocked down from behind and fell into the ditch.

He turned around only to see that his opponent was a young bear who wanted the ruffed grouse for lunch.

"I screamed," Doyle says, "and then I started kicking at him."

In the melée, the bear grabbed one of Doyle's leather loafers and took it with him into the woods.

"He took my shoe right off my foot," Doyle says, his voice still full of disbelief. "So much

See **Bear** page 12



Doyle took this picture of the young bear as it scampered back into the woods.

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Hydro continues with local improvements

Hydro One is spending about \$700,000 from May to August as part of a three-year \$4 million project to improve power delivery reliability to customers in the Haliburton area.

The work at this stage of the project involves replacing an old stretch of a major 44,000 volt distribution line that runs off-road through the bush with a new section including 30 poles running along Highway 118 south of Haliburton. The remaining stages of the project will be built over the next two years.

"This project will significantly upgrade overall reliability in Highlands East, Tory Hill, Gooderham, Wilberforce and surrounding area," said Hydro One Customer Operations Manager Bill Smeaton. "Not only will customers have the benefit of brand new

equipment (poles, insulators, conductor) but having the line run along the road instead of deep in the bush will improve access for our crews and restoration speed if there is damage that needs repair."

All the work, including climbing 60-foot and 75-foot poles and stringing conductor, will be done by a crew of six apprentices and supervisors. "This job is a good example of Hydro One's commitment to development of our young tradespeople," Smeaton says. "These learner crews require a lot of planning and dedication from our regular lines staff who supervise them."

Over the past five years Hydro One has invested about \$4.5 billion in capital projects and maintenance to sustain and upgrade its high-voltage transmission and low-voltage distribution systems throughout the province. It plans to invest an additional \$5.5 billion in system maintenance and upgrades over the next five years.



Hydro will continue its efforts to improve local infrastructure. Some of the lines are being brought out of the bush to reduce power outages.

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"This is a great community effort," Dysart et al Reeve Murray Fearrey says of the new health centre. "I think when we make this kind of investment we're looking well into the future. We'll have a tremendous medical facility here." Joining him in cut-

ting the Band-aid at the official opening on Friday were Cheryl Kennedy, administrator of the doctors' clinic, Highlands East Reeve Keith Tallman and Algonquin Highlands Reeve Eleanor Harrison.

Health centre is a prescription for the future

MARTHA PERKINS

Editor

The day after a report was released warning that few young doctors were choosing family medicine, Haliburton was celebrating the official opening of its new medical facility.

Taking part in the festivities were one doctor who was recently attracted to Haliburton in part because of the new office complex, one doctor being wooed to join the team of eight doctors and one nurse practitioner who all but needed a contract to sign before her decision to join the team became official.

It's was as if the adage "If you build it they will come" was bearing fruit before the paint was even dry.

"We've been courting (Dr.) Mike Armstrong since 1998," Dr. Bob Heyes told the crowd at the medical centre on Friday night. This past winter, just before the doctors were to move into the (rent-free) upper level of the office complex that the municipality of Dysart et al had built next to the Haliburton hospital, Dr. Armstrong finally agreed to move to Haliburton as a year-round resident, not just a summer resident.

"You can draw your own conclusions," Dr. Heyes said, "on whether the building tipped the balance."

Staff at the medical centre were also using the evening to entice another doctor and his family to Haliburton. The strong sense of community and the beauty of the area were repeatedly stressed.

Carol Polych didn't seem to need much arm-twisting. She grew up in Gravenhurst and is now working at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health in Toronto. If the Haliburton doctors get their way, she'll also be the clinic's first nurse practitioner.

"At the moment I think it will work very, very well and I look forward to the process moving along," she said. She's already looked into joining the Haliburton Curling Club.

When it comes to deciding where she wants to work, Polych says "number one on my list is respectful dynamics." She appreciates the team approach at the medical centre, which is part of the first

wave of Family Health Networks funded by the province.

She adds that, "I also want the standards to be acceptable and I know they are here. Other places are right up to date 40 years ago."

The medical centre was designed to house the doctors, and nurse practitioners, on the top floor and other health professionals on the main floor. Each doctor has an office and two examining rooms as well as shared spaces and meeting rooms, with room for more doctors. There's also an office for a case manager with the Access Centre.

Downstairs, MDS Laboratory will soon be moving in as well as Dr. Rob Hill's chiropractic clinic. Other people have expressed interest.

The doctors do not have to pay rent as part of Dysart's commitment to ensuring its ratepayers have access to good health-care but the main floor tenants will have to pay rent and visitors to the centre will soon have to pay for the privilege of parking. (Dysart borrowed most of the \$2.8 million cost and will levy \$300,000 a year to pay it off.)

The addition of the nurse practitioner (with funding for others, it's hoped, to follow) is to take some of the stress off the doctors. A nurse practitioner can see patients and even prescribe certain medications.

"What the nurse practitioner does," Polych says, "is integrate the care and help the patient make sense of what's happening to them. The patient comes in with a certain problem and that's their ticket to come in. Once they're in, that's when you deal with the other health issues."

This comprehensive approach to medicine is one of the reasons why the access centre has an office at the centre. The access centre co-ordinates all the services a patient needs, whether it's home care after surgery or residence at a long-term care centre.

Kim Ballantyne, the director of the Haliburton access centre's client services, says "It's so much nicer that the client can be whisked down the hall and the arrangements can be made right away."

Soaking this all in was Dr. Hisayuki

Hamada of the medical school at Nagasaki University in Japan. He's been working with Dr. Karl Hartwick, who also teaches at the University of Toronto, to better understand the needs and demands of a rural family practice.

"Canada has the best system in regard to rural education," Dr. Hamada says. "Sometimes I come here to see how to teach students."

"One interesting thing here is that doctors always ask patients what they need and what kinds of services does a patient want. They teach students based on needs. That's different for rural areas where a doctor has to do everything."

Juggling the responsibility of keeping his 11-month-old son Evan happy during the festivities with his wife Darlene, Dr. Armstrong said he's pleased to be joining the Haliburton doctors.

"There's something unique about this practice," he says. "It's a strong group and very cohesive."

As a young doctor, he's also pleased he'll have other doctors to turn to. "We're a profession where we rely on each other," he says.

Young doctors start their careers with a very heavy debt load, says Dr. Bob Heyes, who established the practice with Dr. Hartwick in 1980. Studies show that while incentives such as golf packages and signing bonuses can attract doctors for the short term, Dysart was wise to remove the overhead costs by providing the building rent-free. This makes doctors much more amenable to staying here.

"This is absolutely amazing," says Algonquin Highlands Reeve Eleanor Harrison. "Algonquin Highlands is just so pleased Dysart did this."

Residents in her municipality come to Haliburton for medical services so her council was more than pleased to make a financial contribution towards the construction. (Highlands East also made a contribution; Minden Hills declined, deciding to focus its financial attention on its own efforts to attract doctors.)

The centre was built because eight years ago, Dysart Reeve Murray Fearrey held a meeting with Dr. Heyes to ask what could be done to attract doctors to Haliburton. Other communities, also fac-

ing a doctor shortage, were offering all kinds of incentives and he didn't want Haliburton to fall behind.

Although it took a few years for that conversation to turn into something concrete (or brick), Dr. Heyes says that throughout it all Fearrey was the champion of the project.

Also making it happen was Cheryl Kennedy, the centre's administrator.

"Cheryl is our eyes and ears and often our voice," Dr. Heyes said.

The husband and wife team of Drs. Kristy Gammon and Steve Ferracuti led the toast to Kennedy.

"Without Cheryl we would not be here today," Dr. Gammon said, attesting to Kennedy's "incredible" ability to multitask. "She brought vision, spirit, tenacity and great bridge building [to the project.] Every time there were obstacles, Cheryl seemed even more excited and she fixed them."

One day, Dr. Gammon was in Kennedy's office and noticed that Kennedy was looking tired. Dr. Gammon asked her, "Why are you doing this? Why are you giving up so much of your family time?"

"She didn't miss a beat," Dr. Gammon told the crowd. "She said, 'I just want to give back to my community.'"

Dr. Ferracuti said, "This whole project is proof of something we all already know - Haliburton County is the best place to live and work."

Praise was repeated by Fearrey, who said the project was "an opportunity to work with some pretty dedicated people."

He then made special mention of Al Ferguson, a Dysart councillor who is in the last stages of cancer and attended the evening, in a wheelchair, with his wife Diana.

Fearrey said, "I'm so proud of Al Ferguson and the way he's carried on. Al, you're a great guy and you've got tremendous spirit."

Fearrey praised several other partners including Dysart roads superintendent Brian Nicholson, who spent his Saturdays making sure the project was moving ahead, and contractor Bel/Con Engineering Ltd..

Larger retailers won't have as many problems with GST

from page 1

as possible, and I'll tell you, it's a real challenge."

Steve Todd, owner of Todd's Independent Grocer in Haliburton, says that for his business the changeover should be next to seamless. Because his entire store is computerized, the new tax reductions can be downloaded from head office overnight, and will be in effect for the first customer the next morning.

Andy Glecoff, owner of Haliburton's V&S Department Store, says the same is true for his business, although they contract out their system and computer support.

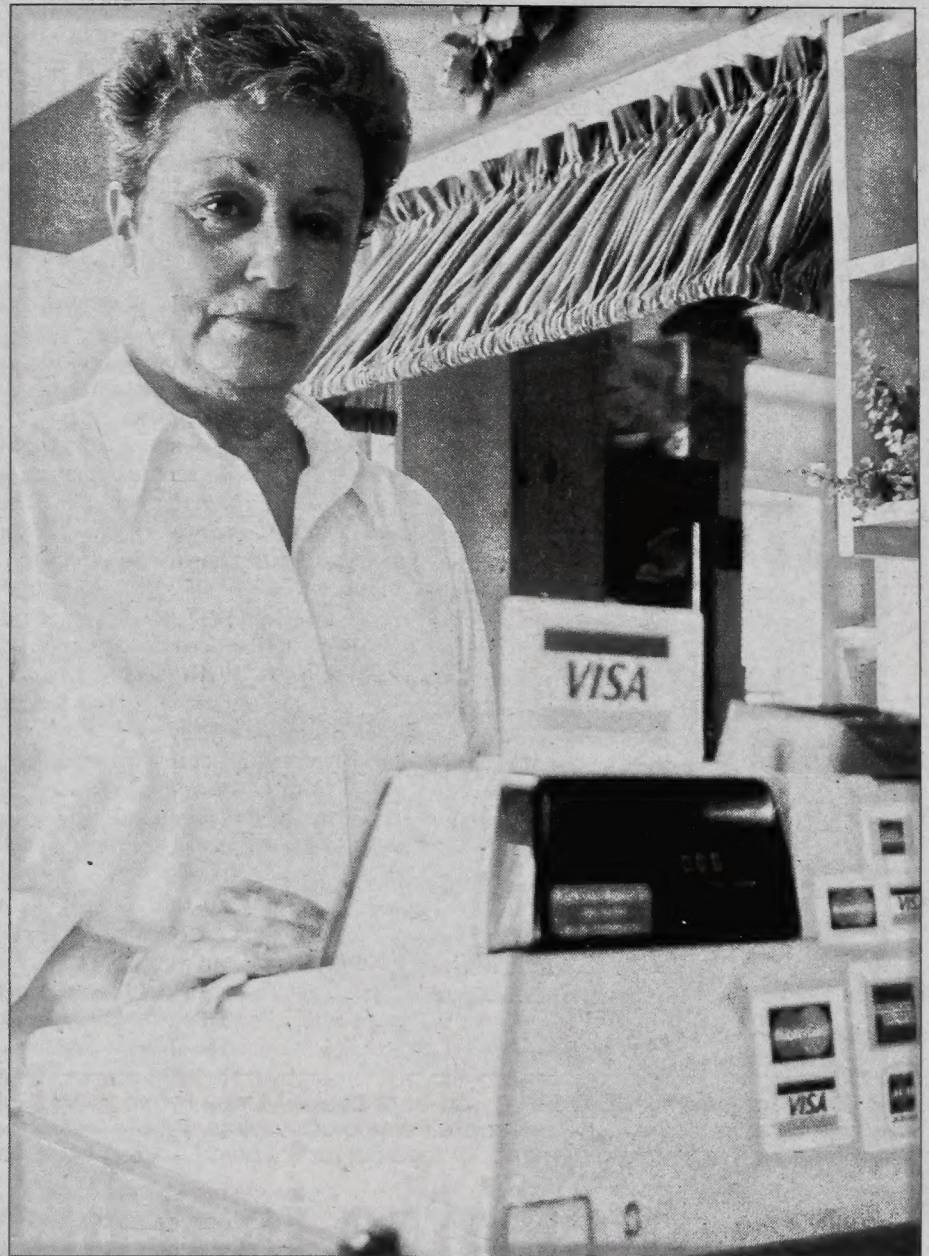
"It's now just a matter of flipping a switch," says Glecoff. "The equipment today is so simplified that I think it's a non-issue for most retailers."

If a business is found to have not

changed their cash registers in time for the new rates of tax, the Excise Tax Act requires that any amount collected or charged on account of tax be remitted to the Receiver General.

However, if the owner issues a refund or credit to the customer for the overcharged GST, and a credit note or debit note is issued, the owner may then deduct the amount of the refund from their net tax remittance.

Business owners with questions or concerns over the upcoming GST reduction can contact the Canada Revenue Agency GST hotline at 1-866-959-7797. Of course, given that July 1 is both a Saturday and national holiday, operators will not be manning the phones on the day the changes take effect, leaving those concerned with only two options: listening to a catalogue of pre-recorded answers or breaking out the calculator.



GREG HOEKSTRA/ECHO

Linda Caterazzi, owner of the Kash Landing Café in Ingoldsby, will have to pay \$90 this week to have her cash register reprogrammed in time for the July 1 GST reduction.



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LCBO and Beer Store close this Saturday

MARTHA PERKINS

Editor

If Canada Day means kicking back with a few beers or enjoying a drink with friends in your backyard, then you'd better be an organized person.

All LCBO outlets across the province, as well as all Beer Stores, will be closed on the Saturday of the upcoming holiday weekend. That's, repeat, all of them – including ones in tourist towns such as Haliburton and Minden.

July 1 is one of eight statutory holidays that both the LCBO and the Beer Store adhere to.

"Canada Day is one of the few days of the year when we can give our employees a day off in the summer, especially since the introduction of Sunday openings," says Chris Layton, a spokesperson for the LCBO.

The LCBO and Beer Store, which is owned by major breweries, fall under the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario.

Layton says that on most Canada Days, closing is not an issue. "The reality is there has never been a great demand for us to open on Canada Day, even when it has fallen on a Saturday. For many years now, we have extended Friday evening hours until 9 p.m. during the summer months at LCBO stores in cottage and resort areas that normally close at 6 p.m."

A spokesperson with the Beer Store thought the Retail Business Holiday Act

is the bad guy in all of this. But it turns out that if it wanted to, the Beer Store could allow outlets in designated tourist destinations, such as Haliburton.

The act allows municipalities to pass bylaws allowing businesses in areas that attract tourists to remain open on statutory holidays. All municipalities in Haliburton County have such a bylaw.

"If the LCBO has made a decision with respect to all of its stores [being closed on Canada Day], that's a decision they've made corporately," says a spokesman with the Ministry of Government Services. "It's an operational decision. They are not required to close under the act if they're in a municipality that's passed a bylaw to allow them to open. There's nothing directed at any specific store or retail chain."

That's why all is not lost for those people who pull up to an LCBO store or Beer Store outlet on Saturday only to find the lights out and the doors locked. In rural areas like Haliburton, the agency stores that stock alcohol and beer are not required to shut down.

There are three agency stores in Haliburton County: The West Guilford Shopping Centre, Eagle Lake Foodtown and The Hub in Carnarvon. They'll all be open for business as usual on July 1.

"We'll be stocking extra," says Bill Burden, the owner of the West Guilford Shopping Centre. He's expecting Saturday to be a busy day for alcohol and wine sales, especially with the Canada Day festivities across the street.

Echo wins more first-place awards than any other newspaper in Canada

The Haliburton County Echo was once again awarded more first-place awards than any other weekly newspaper in Canada in the annual Canadian Community Newspapers Association's Better Newspapers Competition.

As well as winning five of the top awards, including one for putting out the best newspaper in our circulation, the Echo also earned a second- and third-place award.

In choosing the Echo as the best newspaper in the 4,000 to 6,500 circulation category, the judge said "The cream of the crop quickly rose to the top. There is no question that the Haliburton County Echo is the best of the lot with nice, crisp layout, sharp photos, great content, nice balance between editorial and advertising and an eye for detail."

The Echo also came first in the category for best front page and best editorial page.

Competing against all papers with a circulation up to 10,000, came first in the best coverage of the arts category.

"The Haliburton County Echo," the judge writes, secured top honours partly by virtue of some outstanding writing by Lance Crossley. His feature on composer R. Murray Schafer was riveting reading.

"The Echo's use of photos, colour and headlines was outstanding. Another Lance Crossley story on young people in music adjudications was an excellent

example of taking a look at the arts from a refreshing angle."

Former Echo graphic artist Cathy Olliffe came first in the open category for best photo illustration. Using two photos by summer reporter Graeme Stemp she had Haliburton Forest astronomer Tom Kovacs gaze up into the star-filled sky.

"This full-page cover caught my eye," the judge writes. "The wonderful use of time-lapsed photography coupled with the still image which was cropped out and placed on the picture made this an interesting piece. It pulls you in and makes you want to find out what the feature is all about."

The Echo's Fall Tour is a perennial winner in the special section category. This year it came in second in the 4,000 to 12,500 circulation category.

Former Echo photographer won a third-place award for best photo essay in the 4,000 to 12,500 circulation category for his assignment riding shotgun with Brian Nicholson of the Dysart roads department.

"[This] should show one and all that the most innocuous of subject matter can make, with a little creativity and innovation, a strong story," the judge writes. "Nice big lead photo, supported by subsequent pictures and beautiful layout, gives Haliburton readers a visual chronicle into the early morning hours of a municipal worker."

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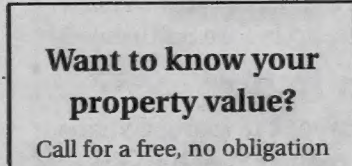
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Why close liquor outlets?

In past years, the closure of the LCBO and Beer Store on Canada Day didn't get on our radar screen but this year, for some reason, it seems rather silly to have the two purveyors of alcohol close shop on the Saturday of a long weekend.

No, you don't have to have alcohol to have fun. Being able to buy beer or coolers or alcohol on Canada Day is not an essential component to celebrating Canada's birthday. Employees are entitled to a day off in the summer. It's good that the LCBO and Beer Store press releases announcing the closures also make a link with their promotion of responsible alcohol consumption. Good for them.

echo

editorial

martha perkins

who live here have already given up on the idea that summer is a time to relax by the lake or in our backyards. Nice dream. Summer here means trying to make enough money to get us through the lean winter months. That's when we get our time off. (Not that we're bitter...)

So when people decide to spend a summer weekend in the Highlands, we want them to be happy. We want them to be able to do everything they want to, and if that includes alcoholic beverages, so be it.

It seems, too, that closing the Beer Store and the LCBO on the Saturday of a holiday weekend doesn't make good business sense. Wouldn't sales be higher than usual? Maybe not all outlets should be open for business but why not give that option to those outlets in tourist areas such as the Haliburton Highlands?

Thank goodness for the outlet stores which will be open as usual. They'll probably do a brisk trade with people who didn't have time to make it to the Beer Store or LCBO early, or who simply forgot they'd be closed.

It would be nice if we lived in a world where long weekends in the summer really were long weekends for everyone, including people who work in the Highlands. But it's impossible to turn back that clock. Just make sure that you make time to stock up before Saturday.

From seven to six

There might be something symbolic in using Canada Day as the day to celebrate the reduction of the GST from seven per cent to six, but given that there are bound to be a few glitches with cash registers when the change is made, the Saturday of a long weekend isn't the wisest choice of a changeover date.

Retailers who are part of larger chains don't seem to have a problem because their world is already so highly computerized but it does put an extra burden on independent businesses. And again, here in the Highlands Canada Day is already busy enough not to have to worry about taxes, even if those taxes are going down.

Oh yeah, Happy Birthday

Enough grumbling. This weekend is an opportunity for Canadians to show some civic pride. We're not big on flag waving but that doesn't mean we don't appreciate how lucky we are to be living in this great nation. We might have to put up with the cold of winter and the bugs of summer, but the other advantages of living here make it more than worth it.

So wave the flag. Get all teary-eyed about your country. Celebrate.

But it's because summer is so brief that here in the Highlands we are forced to operate under the premise that you should make hay while the sun shines. In other words, most of us



A deer on Eastern Ave.

Photo by CASEY LESSARD/ECHO

Future cities right here in the county

Have I ever told you about my vision of the future? How big monstrous cities like Toronto will become a thing of the past and will dwindle down in population as the years go by?

Really, these huge cities are very 20th Century, requiring hordes of people to pile into cars, buses and subway trains and shuffle down to the centre of town, for a day's work. Most workers gather in large buildings and sit in front of a computer and compute stuff. And once computed, they send it along to another department so that they can compute it. Until finally it's converted into some kind of mis-sive that needs to be acted upon or simply filed and kept for future computing.

Okay, you know where I'm going, right? Why, in the age of instant communications, do we have to go to that one big office to do what we could easily do sitting in the breakfast nook with a laptop?

One of the reasons, of course, is the egos of the bosses. Bosses like to have someone to boss, or they feel they're somehow being cheated. It's important for them to be able to say things like, "Jones, you were five minutes late this morning, let's get on the ball, okay. Time is money. What if everyone showed up five minutes late, the world of business would come to a grinding halt, and then where would we all be...eh? Jones?"

My feeling is Jones wouldn't be late if he didn't have to commute all the way from Richmond Hill to Richmond Street to do his share of computing. Why can't he just go over to his home computer, sign in, put in his eight hours of work and e-mail it along? He could configure his hours any way he liked. He could put in five hours in the morning, go out and play a game of golf, and finish the other three hours later in the day. Less stress, more exercise, the same and probably more productivity since

water-cooler conversations wouldn't exist.

But what about office romances and meeting Mr or Ms Right; what about the team player aspect of doing business; what about friendships that are forged in the workplace? Simple. All of the above relationships can be replaced. Office romances can be replaced with tennis romances or pilates romances. Just take out the word 'office' and replace it with a variety of pursuits, like exercise classes, writing classes, walking tours, photography clubs, hockey team, etc..

The point is, most of us would lead happier, healthier lives if we simply stayed home, put in our time in whatever way we pleased and used our spare time to do more interesting things.

What would happen to big cities? They'd still be there for many things including business, but they wouldn't be so obscenely crowded. Traffic would be cut in half. Pollution too.

Of course, there are certain professions that require us to be present, like... well, let's see.... Restaurants? No, they can be opened anywhere. Museums? They really don't have to be in the city. Theatres can move out of town. Okay, the only people who have to go into the city to work are the Toronto Maple Leafs, the Blue Jays and Argos.

So where will all these newly-freed folks go and live? Probably here. We have thousands of lakes, and millions of miles of forest, and streams and, well, we could accommodate a couple of hundred thousand, eh? Think of the increased business.

Torontonians are really quite nice when they get out of that crowded city and are given a bit of space in which to loosen up. Really. No, really. We could create a new class at Sir Sandford Fleming called "Loosening Up The City Folks." See, there's a new business already.



ross jarvis

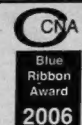
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FOREVER IN OUR MEMORIES: CREIGHTON FEIR

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Golden memories

I believe the main purpose of being a kid is to keep adults honest by reminding them of what they once were like. A second, and equally important, purpose is to assure grandparents that there is justice in this world. But aside from those things, every now and then our children also remind us of long-forgotten universal truths - in my case that you should not eat raw, gold-painted pasta. And, trust me, these are words to live by.

My daughter Carmen was kind enough to bestow this sage advice upon me as she handed me a framed photo of herself, the frame being adorned with the finest gold-painted macaroni, spaghetti and rotini. If I'm not mistaken, all of these products were imported from as far off as Mississauga which, in my mind at least, gave the whole piece an incredibly exotic flair.

Our conversation went something like this:

Tales from



steve
galea

Vinegar Hill

"Oh, Carmen, that's a beautiful photo. And the frame is lovely."

"We spray-painted the pasta gold and glued it on, Dad. Whatever you do, don't eat it."

"Carm," I replied, "I wouldn't dare eat it. It's way too beautiful."

"It would probably taste horrible too. One of my friends tried a little bit and he said so. Please Daddy, promise me you won't eat it."

I was suddenly reminded that, back when we were in first grade making macaroni picture frames for Father's Day, I was that gold macaroni-eating kid. Only, unlike Carmen's friend, I got carried away.

Luckily, and probably because we used healthy lead-based paints, I'm fairly certain that this didn't affect me mentally. Otherwise, I wouldn't be here now writing this important literary work, I suppose.

I'm not sure if it would be right to call the construction of the gold macaroni picture frame a rite of passage, but it certainly is a milestone in the life of both a child and his or her parent. It ranks right up there with finger painting, learning to use the alphabet properly, toilet etiquette, and all the other things that we adults take quiet pride in.

Still, when handcrafted by a talented six-year-old, the results can be breathtaking. The golden pasta, for instance, sets off my daughter's eyes.

All this makes me wonder why there's not a bigger market for this type of decor. Why aren't our cars decked out with gold cannelloni trim for instance? It's a proven hit with fathers everywhere and the body work would be a piece of cake.

There are other important messages in all of this too.

First and foremost, I wonder why it is that each one of my kids handed me their photo and gold pasta-encrusted frame with the same stern warning - Daddy, don't eat it.

When Jenny did that, I thought it was cute. A few years later, when Ryan voiced the same sentiments, I thought, "Huh? Is that merely coincidence?"

Carmen's warning, however, is well past coincidental. I actually suspect that either the school board or my wife put her up to it. I can actually envision the conversation and how it took place.

"Do you think he'll like it, Mommy?"

"Uh, yes, Carmen," she replies, "perhaps too much."

"What do you mean?"

"Well, I don't know how to break this to you, but your daddy is a big fan of pasta and he also likes shiny things."

"You mean like a crow?"

"Yes, darling, just like a crow."

"But, Mom, I like this frame. It goes with my eyes and the décor in Daddy's office. What will we do?"

I figure that somewhere shortly thereafter her mother instructed Carmen to offer a specific warning about consuming the gift.

"Do you think it will stop him, Mom?" I envision my little girl asking, as lines of worry etch across her face.

"Well, if we keep him fed, it ought to slow him down," she'd respond. "He's short, too, so we'll try to hang it out of reach."

Of course, all this is unnecessary and utter nonsense. While the frame does indeed look good, it does not look nearly as appetizing as, say, my pen or perhaps that pencil over by the phone.

In fact, I've been looking at this photo for the last three days and for the life of me can't imagine eating the frame unless I was in an emergency situation - say, for instance, we ran out of pretzels or nachos.

Otherwise it remains perfectly safe with me.

The fact is, no one warned my wife not to graze on the Mother's Day grass-in-the-shoe gift package - and far be it me to suggest that too. Yet, they somehow think that I'd be less responsible.

Yes, the frames of Jenny and Ryan are shy on gold macaroni now. And though I have been accused of their demise, it was not me.

That's right, I've been framed.



pic of the past

Although he was born in Wales, Arthur Oliver grew up in Halls Lake. When Canada joined World War I he signed up with the armed forces. It was in England that he met his young bride, Mary Crowther. They married in November 1918 and she made the journey by boat, train and horse-drawn wagon to the wild woods of Haliburton. Their love endured the culture shock, however, and she soon adapted to Highlands life. Our thanks to their granddaughter, Linda Coneybeare, for sharing their wedding photo with us.

letters to the editor

Use caboose as pallet

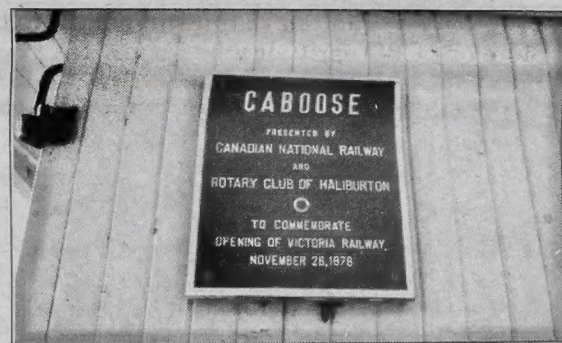
To the Editor:

Re Echo June 20, page 4: Chamber wants space occupied by caboose

Chamber of Commerce sign vs the caboose. What if the Chamber were to use the caboose as its pallet.

The caboose was a gift presented to commemorate Haliburton's history. Taking this idea a step further, rental fees could be charged to the user with a time limit placed on the advertiser to help with preservation fees.

L. Robertson
Haliburton



Chamber of Commerce could put a sign on the side of the caboose.

Vamoose caboose

To the Editor:

Replace the caboose with advertising? Someone has mush for brains. Let's go whole-hog and sell ads on the wings of the CF 100. The tank outside the Legion should be good for a few bucks for rental space. And the derelict railway locomotive? A rusting eyesore.

Sell it for scrap and buy a changing self-amortizing electronic billboard with the proceeds.

Better still, leave the loco where the kids can

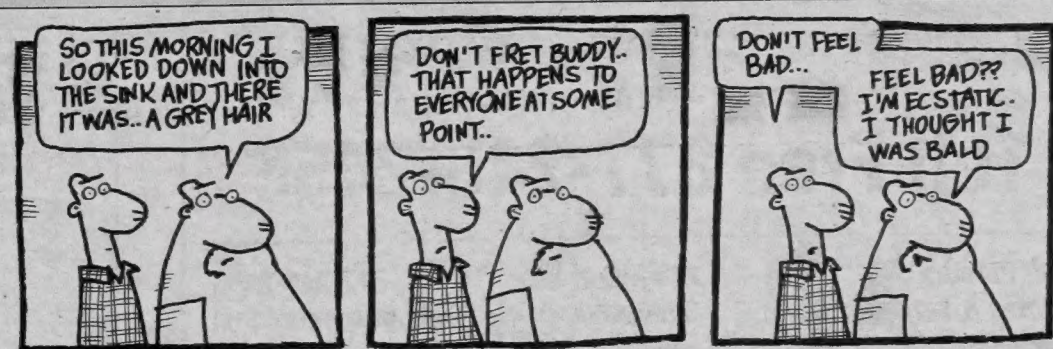
still play on it. Treasure the CF 100 and the tank for what they were. And maintain that old caboose. They aren't making them any more.

Have the Chamber of Commerce acquire land near the dump for a billboard park. The traffic and exposure there would be great and the project could even turn a profit.

Ted Morris
RR1 Tory Hill

See **Many Thanks** on pg 8

Boonieville by Charlie Teljeur



from page 7

Many thanks for support

To the Editor:

Moving is very stressful, heart-wrenching, emotional, and exhausting. A yard sale is all of the above, and more. I am overwhelmed!

Thank you, to all who attended the yard sales, and who purchased items to help me down-size, walked the property with me for the last time, and reflected with me on the superb environmental accomplishments and outstanding writings that my late husband, R.D. Lawrence, an outstanding Canadian, achieved in the past 22 years here at Wolf Hollow.

I will miss this very unique property, the animals, the birds, the flora and fauna, the more than 10,000 visitors from around the world who came here to visit and re-visit, and the wonderful friends and neighbours that live in this area [north of Gooderham].

The literary estate of R.D. Lawrence, his personal belongings, and much more, have been moved to the Cultural Centre in Minden. During the next two years, the R.D. Lawrence Collection will be catalogued, preserved, archived, arranged into displays for public viewing.

I will move to Minden Hills on June 28.

I, and many others, deeply regret that the County of Haliburton did not have the vision to purchase this property and preserve the special eco-system here, and keep it as a historic site and a tourist attraction for the public. Happy Canada Day!

Cheerio,

Sharon Lawrence
www.crywild.com
Respect all life.
Read R.D. Lawrence



Sharon Lawrence is pictured here with her late husband, Ron Lawrence

Highlands Summer Festival operates with many volunteers

To the Editor:

Many thanks for the article on set construction which was printed in the June 20 edition of Cottage Times. We, too, are happy to have the services of our talented set designer, Brent McGillivray. I would like to point out, however, that it is not just Betty and David who build and paint the scenery for our summer festival. There is a host of volunteers who spend hours creating the backdrops for all four of our productions. They are the unsung heroes who are recognized by a line in the Festival program, but that line does not

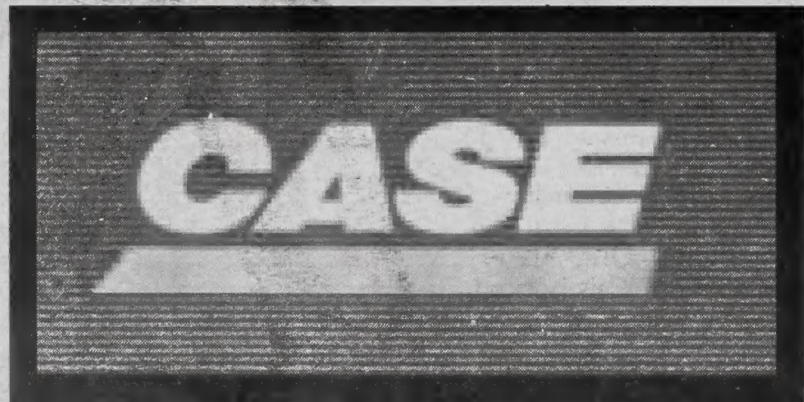
reflect their value to the whole process.

I'd include a list of their names but it goes on and on. Suffice it to say that their work is valued and is an integral part of what has grown to be one of the more successful summer theatres in the province.

Well done, guys, and many thanks.

David Mills
Set Construction Co-ordinator
Highlands Summer Festival

P.S. If you haven't bought your tickets yet, don't delay. You'll be thrilled with this year's productions.



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by William Gibson

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by Joe DiPietro

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If Music Be The Food of Love.....Play On

Our classical concerts are being co-ordinated this year by the popular and talented Melissa Stephens. Joining her for the first two performances in July will be well-known soprano soloist, Barbara Dunn-Prosser. For the last two performances, she teams up with bass soloist, Jon-Paul Decosse. Enjoy a melodious mixture of Opera, Broadway, Mozart, Bartok, Gershwin and much more!! July 12 and 20. July 25 and August 3.



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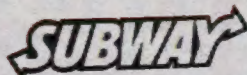
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Teddy Bears enjoy a picnic

Rebecca Archibald, left, brought her friend Hopscotch to the Wee Care Teddy Bear Picnic Wednesday night. The evening was a chance for past and current day care attendees and their parents to join the day care's staff in celebrating 20 years in business. Molly and George Devolin, below, enjoyed a snack on the picnic table, while Paul Thompson transformed Josh Boyce, 6, into a vampire. "I love it," parent Beth Archibald said of the day care's service. "They do a really great job. The staff are really caring and highly professional. I work full-time, so it's nice to know they're safe."

Photos by Casey Lessard



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Leigh Bull
Bob Johnson
Bob Bullock

Bear wants bird for lunch

from page 1

for being a humanitarian [and wanting to help the ruffed grouse.]”

After hobbling as quickly as he could back to the safe confines of his truck, Doyle was catching his breath when he noticed the bear return.

“He was after the bird,” Doyle says, wondering if the bear had been watching the bird when he struck it with his truck.

Doyle grabbed his digital camera and stood outside the truck to get the bear’s photo. Obviously camera shy, the bear ran back into the bush, leaving the ruffed grouse, which by now was dead, on the road.

Not wanting to risk another encounter with the bear, Doyle drove his truck to where the bird lay and dashed out long enough to pluck it from the road.

“I’m going to have it stuffed as a commemorative,” he says.

Doyle has seen lots of bears in his time but never this up close and personal. “I’m lucky it wasn’t a big one,” he says. The bear was obviously young and not in very good shape. Its back hip may be injured.

Doyle sees the humour in the situation but, still, he’s going to be a bit more cautious from now on. Maybe he’ll pack some bear spray with his tools.



MARTHA PERKINS/ECHO

It was when he was bending over this ruffed grouse, which he had hit with his truck, that Wilfred Doyle was knocked over by a bear that wanted the bird for lunch. Meanwhile, if anyone walking along Kennisis Lake Road happens to find a brown leather shoe, Doyle would love to get it back.

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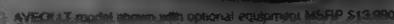
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MORNING EVENTS

HORSESHOE TOURNAMENT
Registration 9:30AM • Start 10AM

AFTERNOON EVENTS

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 12 NOON | Flag Raising • Opening Ceremonies
Canada Day Citizen Award • Decorated Bicycles |
| 12:30 pm | Pine Lake Swim (Registration by 11am)
Must be accompanied by non-motorized boat |
| 1:00pm | Waterfront Races |
| 2:00-5:00pm | Novelty Races • Nail Drive Contest • Cross Cut Contests
• Tug Of War • Pie Baking Contest • Most Descendants
• Oldest Man & Woman • Youngest Boy & Girl
• Games & Trivia • Scavenger Hunt |
| 5:30 -6:30pm | Barbeque Supper |
| 7:00-9:00pm | Kids & Parents Ball Game
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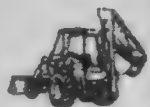
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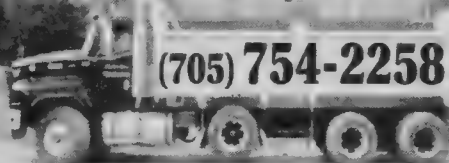
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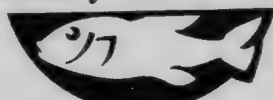
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Happy memories of Haliburton will accompany pastor to his new charge

JENNIFER WILSON

Staff Reporter

When Pastor Gord Walsh leaves Haliburton this summer for the East Coast, he will carry with him many memories of the area and its countless residents in his heart.

Walsh first came to Haliburton to preach at the Full Gospel Lighthouse Pentecostal church in 1990 and is heading to St. Stephen New Brunswick in July.

"I'll miss the sense of community, especially among the churches. How they pull together when there is a need or a significant world event such as 9/11," says the 51-year-old pastor. "But most of all, I will miss the people. I'll remember the many great times and joys shared and I'll also remember the sadness and the loss of many I have known who have passed on."

The natural beauty of the area, something Walsh says he's never taken for granted, will also be forever in his memory.

"I'll miss the beauty of nature. The changes of the season, the lights at Head Lake at night and the stillness of the morning when the lake is like a mirror," says Walsh.

Although his congregation is quite sad to see him go, Walsh says when the opportunity arose to go to St. Stephen he knew it was the calling of God.

"There were a lot of tears shed," says Walsh. "I think we should have bought shares in Kleenex that day."

Walsh, along with his wife Sue and his daughters Elizabeth, 18, Lydia, 20, Emily, 25, Erin, 27 and their 14-year-old son Benjamin, are looking forward to the adventure ahead of them.

"I think it will be a challenge but one I am excited about," says Walsh, who was born in Newfoundland. "Really, in some ways for me, it's kind of like going home. I'm going back to the ocean."



JENNIFER WILSON/Echo

"I'll miss the beauty of nature. The changes of the season, the lights at Head Lake at night and the stillness of the morning when the lake is like a mirror," says Pastor Gord Walsh, who's leaving Full Gospel Lighthouse after 16 years.

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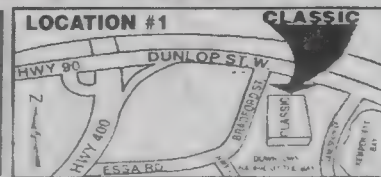
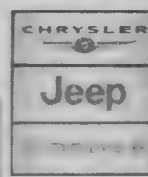
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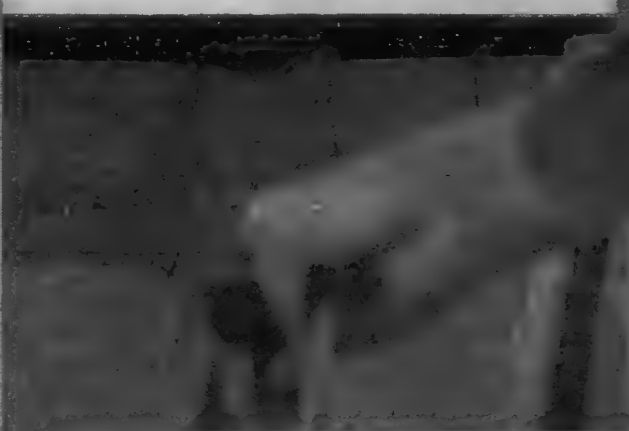
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Tuesday,
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New home builders to thank for many energy efficiency developments

By Kirk Holden
President of the Haliburton County
Home Builders' Association

I've been in the residential construction industry for over 20 years and during that time, have sometimes heard the expression, "they don't build houses like they used to." And quite frankly, I have to agree. We don't build houses like we used to, we build them much better!

This is particularly evident when you consider how much more energy efficient a new home is compared with an older home. And much of the innovation in energy conservation and efficiency in houses has been pioneered by new home builders. Ontario home builders have been active in voluntarily applying energy efficient upgrades to their homes and continue to support and market their homes in programs such as R-2000, EnerGuide for new homes and Energy Star.

But still, our society is faced with growing concern about managing our energy consumption. The Ontario provincial government has set a conservation target of 5 per cent reduction in peak electricity

demand by 2007 as well as a ten per cent reduction in the government's own operations.

To assist the government in reaching its target, the Ontario Home Builders' Association commissioned a working group composed of leading industry experts from various sectors within the residential construction industry to analyse current conditions in Ontario and to make some specific recommendations.

Here are some more facts about the housing market in Ontario and electrical consumption patterns:

- There are 4.8 million homes in Ontario's existing housing stock
- New residential construction adds approximately 1.7% units to the total existing stock each year (including high-rise residential units)
- Only one-third of total electricity consumption is used by residential consumers
- New homes theoretically represent less than 0.56% of total electricity consumption annually

The reality is that beyond newly-con-

structed homes, real headway on energy conservation can only be made by broadening our focus to include the energy efficiency of the nearly five million homes that are in our current housing stock. Existing housing is where we are poised to make the greatest progress with energy conservation in the residential sector, so we need to come up with workable solutions on how to best alter this segment of the marketplace.

But what can you, as a homeowner do now to reduce your energy consumption? Well, plenty. Here are just a few easy suggestions that can make a real difference.

- Use compact fluorescent light bulbs which use 75% less electricity than regular light bulbs and last years longer.
- Dimmer switches can make the use of incandescent bulbs more efficient.
- That old, inefficient refrigerator running in the basement could cost you \$150 or more a year in electricity – get rid of it!
- Set your air conditioner up two degrees Celsius and save 100 kilowatt hours
- Use ceiling fans, rather than air conditioners, to circulate air and feel cool.

• Close blinds and curtains during the day to keep the heat out.

• Vacuum the coils of your refrigerator and keep other appliances in good working order. Or consider buying new EnergyStar approved appliances.

• Watch your thermostat in winter. Heating costs will rise about 5% for every degree above 20° C (68° F) that you set the thermostat.

Those are just a few of the many, many ways you can help conserve Ontario's energy and save yourself some money.

Energy conservation is nothing new. As a society we have been grappling with trying to conserve energy since the 1970's and we continue to look for ways to reduce our dependency and consumption of energy.

There's another old saying, "if you aren't part of the solution, you're part of the problem." That's why the Ontario Home Builders' Association initiated its study to look for solutions. You can access the report Reducing Electricity Consumption in Houses through our website at www.homesontario.com.



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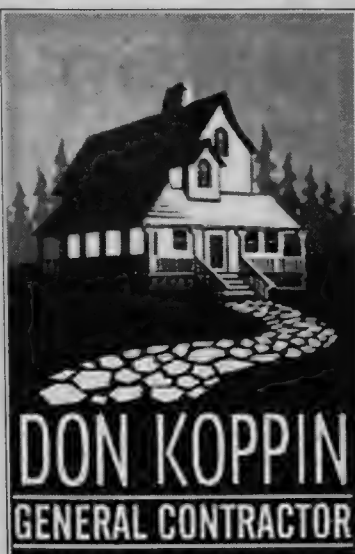
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Consider these things before you build

Are you planning to do some work around the house or cottage this summer?

Before you hire someone to do this you should consider some very important items.

You as a Homeowner in the eyes of the Ministry of Labour maybe considered a "constructor". Be sure to check the Occupational Health and Safety Act (www.labour.gov.on.ca) before you start.

Ontario

Under Ontario law, homeowners who act as their own general contractor and hire others to do work on their homes may be considered constructors, and be responsible for meeting the requirements of the province's Occupational Health and Safety Act and regulations.

The Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Business Services offers a useful on-line guide, Consumer Rights, that outlines the province's consumer protection laws.

Call the building department to see if you need a permit.

Check with your insurance broker to see what your policy will protect.

Homeowners Insurance

What would happen if the contractor repairing your plumbing accidentally started a fire in your home? Or if the workers repairing your roof dropped a bundle of shingles on your neighbour's

car? Many homeowners assume that their homeowners insurance policy would protect them in such circumstances. However, this may not be the case.

Unlike car insurance policies that must provide a minimum level of coverage, homeowners insurance policies can vary considerably. Some are very comprehensive; others are more restrictive, covering a defined number of "specified perils" and excluding anything else. As a result, many homeowners insurance policies do not automatically protect you against damage or liability claims resulting from the actions of a contractor. You need this protection even when your contractor is fully insured.

To be sure you are properly covered, contact your insurance broker or agent before starting any work on your home. Explain the work you plan to have done, who will be doing it, and ask if your present insurance policy provides adequate coverage. If not, make arrangements to update your homeowners insurance so you are fully protected from any damage or injury caused by the contractor.

Before you hire a contractor check that he carries WSIB insurance and is registered with GST.

Workers' Compensation

Workers' Compensation provides work-

ers with fast access to financial benefits and rehabilitation if they are injured while on the job. Workers' compensation programs operate provincially, and enrollment is mandatory for most workers and employers. In some provinces, enrollment is voluntary for self-employed individuals who do not have employees.

As a homeowner, you are normally not a party to the Workers' Compensation program - it involves the contractor you hire and their employees.

However, in some cases and in some provinces, you may face a financial risk if the contractor you hire is not complying with Workers' Compensation rules. This is more likely to be the case if you do not have a written contract with the person you hire establishing that they are in business rather than employed directly by you.

To avoid such financial risks, ask any contractor you plan to hire to give you a Letter of Clearance from your province's Workers' Compensation program proving they are properly enrolled. If your province allows exemptions for self-employed workers, ask for a letter of exemption.

In the event that you hire someone who is not required to carry Workers' Compensation coverage, it may be wise to contact your homeowners insurance provider. You need to be certain that

you are properly protected from personal injury lawsuits.

Get It In Writing!

Once you've decided on who you are going to hire, you're ready to have a contract for the project drawn up. Most often, the contractor will do this for you.

All contracts need to define two sets of information: Every aspect of the project that you and the contractor have agreed to, including the work to be done, material and product specifications, responsibility for building permits and inspections, the work schedule and price and payment arrangements.

Proof that the contractor is operating their business properly, so that you are protected from risks. This includes proof of business liability insurance, Workers' Compensation coverage or equivalent accidental injury insurance, proof of bonding and/or licensing where this is required by provincial or municipal legislation, and proof of proper business registration (a Business or GST/HST Number).

The Sample Renovation Contract available from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation provides an excellent summary of what a contract should contain. For larger more expensive projects, you should also have the draft contract reviewed by your lawyer before signing.

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Tarion doubles warranty protection for new home buyers in Ontario

Tarion Warranty Corporation (Tarion) has announced that total warranty coverage for new homes in Ontario will increase from \$150,000 to \$300,000 for all purchasers who take possession of a new home on or after July 1, 2006.

There will be no additional cost for consumers or builders associated with the coverage increase as the fee for enrolling a new home in the Tarion-administered mandatory warranty program will remain the same.

"This is a significant benefit to new home buyers and builders in Ontario that reflects the robust housing market and the increasing price of new homes," said Greg Gee, President and CEO of Tarion. "While most homeowners will never need this amount of coverage for warranty-related issues in their new homes, the increase to \$300,000 gives purchasers the added confidence of knowing that they are covered even if a major repair is required."

The average price for a new single-family home in Ontario during 2005 was \$306,000, with warranty enrolment fees ranging from \$325.00 for homes priced at \$100,000 or less, to \$750.00 for those selling for \$500,000 or more.

"We welcome any increase in consumer protection," said Gerry Phillips, Ontario Minister of Government Services. "This demonstrates Tarion's continued commitment to improving protection for the new home buyer."

The increased coverage will apply to all purchasers with a date of possession on or after July 1, 2006 regardless of when they entered into their Agreement of Purchase and Sale.

"For the past 30 years, new homeowners in Ontario have been protected by a statutory warranty that has evolved to become one of the most comprehensive of its kind in North America," said Mr. Gee. "This coverage increase will make Tarion the provincial leader in aggregate warranty coverage in Canada."

Tarion has introduced a number of important initiatives in recent years, designed to keep pace with the changing demands of consumers, builders and the new home industry. These include:

- A Contact Centre staffed by knowledgeable customer service representatives to ensure Tarion's services are accessible to Ontarians wherever they live in the province. In 2005, 270,000 calls were

managed by the Centre, including general warranty-related questions as well as inquiries specific to individual homeowner files.

- Seminars for New Home Buyers, designed to help consumers navigate the new home buying process and provide them with useful information on when and how to access the statutory warranty. More than 2,200 people have attended these seminars since their introduction in 2005.

- A walk-in Customer Centre, located in a Toronto retail setting, that allows consumers and builders to meet face-to-face with Tarion staff about a variety of issues or to drop off forms related to the statutory warranty. On average, 600 people visit the Customer Centre each month.

- A user-friendly website, www.tarion.com, which features a broad range of information about statutory warranty protection, a "Find a Builder" area with information about builders along with their customer service and claims histories, as well as helpful publications which can be easily downloaded. The site averaged 1,700 visits per day in 2005.

- A set of Customer Service Standards

which include mandatory requirements for builders in terms of after-sales service. These standards include the introduction of a standard Homeowner Information Package, a required Pre-Delivery Inspection, and specific timelines within which builders must provide necessary after-sales service.

- Construction Performance Guidelines which provide factual information to assist with the resolution of warranty-related issues and help new homeowners understand what is and is not included in their statutory warranty coverage.

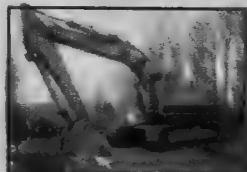
2006 marks the 30th anniversary of Tarion Warranty Corporation, a private corporation established in 1976 to serve as the Regulator of the home building industry in Ontario. In this role, Tarion licenses all home and condominium builders pursuant to provincial legislation. This statute requires home builders to provide purchasers with warranty coverage that is guaranteed by Tarion. The Corporation also establishes minimum time standards for after-sales service, and adjudicates issues between homeowners and builders.

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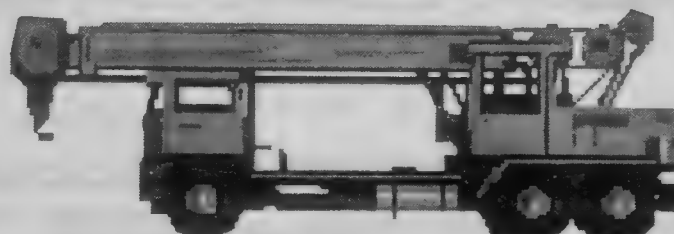
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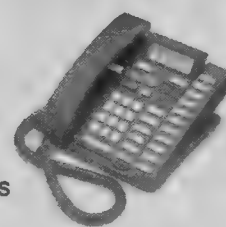


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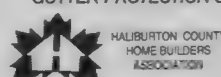
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GST news keeps getting better

By Desi Auciello
President, Greater Toronto Home
Builders' Association

The full impact of the GST cut in the recent federal budget is beginning to sink in as we continue to analyze it in light of the questions being posed to us by both homebuyers and homebuilders. The more we look at the details, the better the budget looks from a home buyer standpoint.

Effective July 1, subject to passage by Parliament, the GST will be reduced from seven to six per cent, so anyone who buys a home after Canada Day will have six per cent GST embodied in the price as opposed to seven per cent previously.

However, the budget contains a provision to the effect that anyone who buys a home after budget day (May 2) will also be subject to the lower tax rate, as long as the deal closes on or after Canada Day.

So, unlike all other big ticket items, there is absolutely no incentive to delay your new home purchase.

There is a part of the budget that has not sunk in for many home buyers who were under agreement of purchase and sale as of the budget day. Purchasers who bought a new home prior to the budget, whether a day before, a month before, a year before, whenever, as long as it was

on or before May 2nd, who close on or after July 1, 2006, are eligible for a 1 per cent "transitional adjustment," net of the GST rebate.

The way this works is that although the house is closing after July 1, when the tax rate will be 6 per cent, the builder will have to remit 7 per cent, with the purchaser being able to claim the 1 per cent transitional adjustment.

I know what you're thinking – how fast can I get my hands on that money. First, the law has to pass. Second, you have to close on your house. Third, you will need the government form, which is not yet available and may not be for awhile. The form is not and will not be available from the association or your builder. It will be available from the Canada Revenue Agency in due course and CRA advises that the form will be posted on its Website (www.cra-arc.gc.ca) or by calling 1-800-959-2221.

And if you're doing the math and have already spent 1 per cent of your purchase price over and over in your minds, please don't forget that this transitional adjustment is net of the GST rebate. The transitional adjustment on a \$300,000 works out to \$1,920 after the GST rebate is taken into account. The transitional adjustment is formula driven on homes priced up to

\$450,000 (the GST rebate maximum threshold), after which you can figure on a straight 1 per cent windfall because there is no applicable GST rebate.

Many home buyers have called our association offices inquiring as to how the 1 per cent tax reduction works during the transition from a seven to a six per cent tax regime. In today's ultra-competitive market, where there are more than 300 home builders with almost 800 projects in the GTA, market forces will ensure that the savings accrue to the home buyer.

However, as noted above, for homes priced up to \$450,000, there already exists a GST new housing rebate of up to 36 per cent of the tax payable to a maximum of \$8,750. So whereas a 1 per cent tax reduction on a \$300,000 home appears to equal a \$3,000 price reduction, the actual tax savings is only \$1,920 when the rebate is taken into account.

The best advice I can offer to home buyers during the transition to the lower tax

rate is to not get hung up on the math of the pass-through savings, but to look at the bottom-line price and make your purchase decision based on apples to apples comparisons of the lot, house, finishes, and of course the builders credentials.

The only slight disappointment among all of this great news is for buyers who bought on or before May 2 but who close prior to Canada Day, as these purchases remain at 7 per cent with no transitional adjustment. You might consider talking to your builder about a delay in your closing, however keep in mind that your builder has carrying costs including interest, property taxes, utilities, etc., plus foregone interest on the closing proceeds, so your builder would have every right to recover these costs from you.

A tax cut seems like a simple thing but as always, the devil is in the details. On the whole, the more we delve into the details, the better the recent federal budget looks for new homebuyers.

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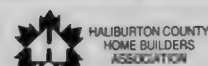
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Ontario Home Builders' Association Supports Building Code Changes

OHBA Energy Conservation Committee releases recommendations

Toronto, May 17, 2006 – The Ontario Home Builders' Association (OHBA) today pledged its support for the Ontario government's proposed changes to the Ontario Building Code including:

- Increasing the current level of insulation in ceilings from R32 – R40
- Increasing the current level of wall insulation from R17 – R19
- Increasing basement insulation from R8 to R12 (not full height); and
- Raising the performance levels for windows and glass doors.

As well, OHBA released the report and recommendations of its broadly-representative Energy Conservation Committee to assist the government in achieving its conservation goals.

"Even though much of the innovation in energy conservation in houses has been pioneered by new home builders

on a voluntary basis, we agree with the government that the building code is in need of change in the face of the energy conservation challenges we confront as a province," commented Victor Fiume, OHBA President. "With very few exceptions, OHBA supports the proposed OBC amendments."

OHBA participated actively in the government's consensus-based energy conservation consultation undertaken this past March on changes to the Ontario Building Code. In addition, and in an effort to elicit the views of the major stakeholders in the home building sector, OHBA assembled an Energy Conservation Committee with representation from large and small builders, renovators, gas utilities, Hydro One, window and insulation manufacturers, and others. This broadly-based committee met over two days to discuss the proposed energy efficiency changes to the Ontario Building Code (OBC). The committee expressed some concern

with the proposal to require full-height basement insulation as this requirement could lead to trapped moisture, mould growth and potential health problems.

OHBA is concerned however that energy efficiency advocates have been lobbying the provincial government to push the Building Code to a performance level of 80 (on the EnerGuide scale). This would represent a monumental shift in building construction standards and seriously affect the affordability of housing in the province.

There are approximately 4.8 million existing homes in Ontario with only about 70,000 new homes being built each year. This means that over 99 percent of Ontario home owners will never see energy efficiency benefits proposed in the Ontario Building Code.

Beyond newly-constructed homes, real headway on energy conservation can only be made when the public poli-

cy focus broadens to include the energy efficiency of the nearly five million homes that are in the current housing stock.

"While we are committed to improving the energy efficiency of the new homes our members build, the existing housing stock holds much more energy-saving potential as the government strives to meet its targets," concluded Mr. Fiume.

OHBA met with the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing recently to discuss the OBC changes, the OHBA committee report and recommendations, and other related issues.

The Ontario Home Builders' Association represents approximately 4000 member companies organized into a network of 31 associations across the province.



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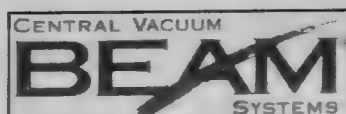
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Senior Games winners

The winners of the 2006 Haliburton Muskoka Senior Games pose with their ribbons at an awards luncheon last week. The games, which have run for nearly 20 years, include events such as tennis, horseshoes, euchre, golf, cribbage, and shuffleboard. Other information: They took place in Haliburton, Minden, Gravenhurst, West

Guilford, and Kinmount. All competitors are 55 and older. Fifty members from this district will move on to the provincial Actifest finals, hosted in Hamilton in mid-August. Meanwhile, Aileen Bruce (left) and Ev Stata (fourth from left, front row) will head to Portage la Prairie, Manitoba this August to compete in the 2006 Canada Senior Games. Stata will compete in walking (for those 75 years and up) while Bruce will compete in swimming.

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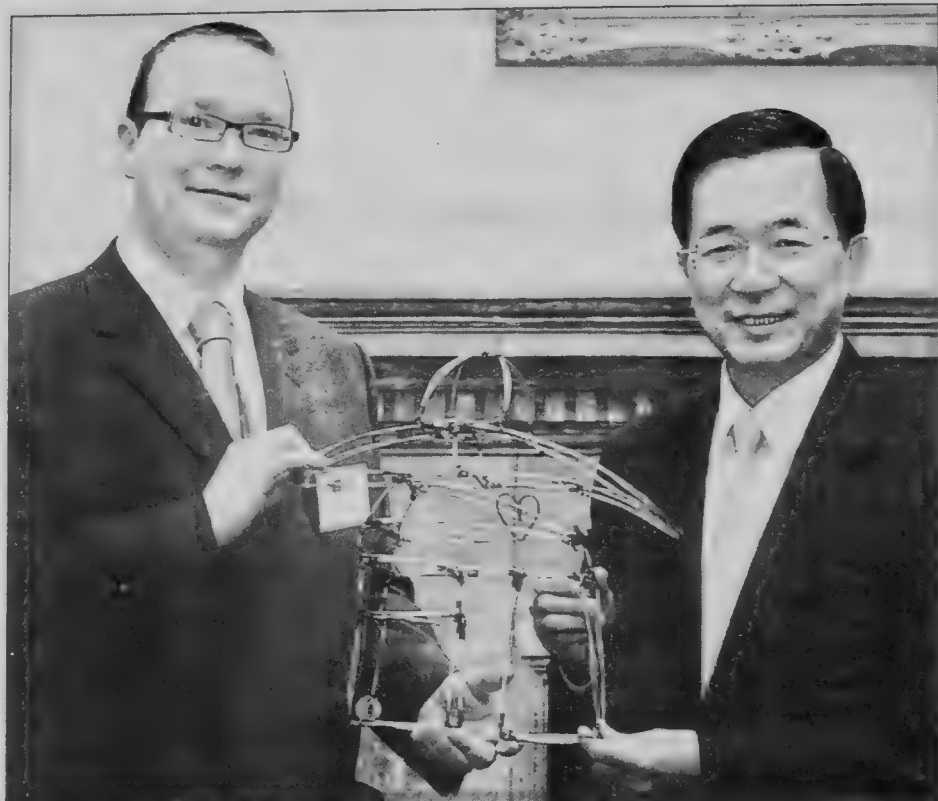
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A gift from Haliburton

Local MP Barry Devolin presented an inukshuk to Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian during his recent trip to the Asian nation. The inukshuk was made by Haliburton resident and Fleming College professor Charles O'Neill. It was purchased by Devolin at the Ethel Curry Gallery in Haliburton.

Board's Gr. 10 literacy results thrown off by funeral

The overall results of the 2005 Grade 10 Literacy Test show that 82 per cent of Trillium Lakelands students met the literacy standard for reading and writing, based on the expectations in The Ontario Curriculum. The province had an 84 per cent success rate. This is the first year that Trillium Lakelands District School Board scored less than the province.

"We attribute our lower scores to the fact that a significant number of our students did not write the test," states Superintendent of Program and Student Success Dale Robinson. "We expect that our scores will surpass the provincial scoring level next year."

The board anticipated a lower scoring rate due to a funeral for a popular local high school student in Muskoka that was held the same day as the Education Quality and Accountability (EQAO) testing. The board was unsuccessful with their request to change the test date.

"Our EQAO scores have always

exceeded the provincial average," says Director of Education Kathy Verduyn. "We will continue our work with parents, teachers, and administrators to achieve our ultimate goal – student success."

The literacy test is administered to all Grade 10 students in the province. The literacy test consists of two integrated components: a reading component and a writing component. The literacy test determines whether a student has achieved the minimum standard in reading and writing up to the end of Grade 9.

EQAO test results help schools identify areas for attention to improve student achievement. They also serve as a basis for the board, schools, teachers, and students to discuss ways to improve.

Prior to graduation, students have three opportunities to write the OSSLT or may fulfill the requirement through the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Course.

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July 3-7: Minden
July 17-21: West Guilford
July 31-4: Wilberforce
Aug 14-18: West Guilford

July 10-14: Haliburton
July 24-28: Gooderham
Aug 7-11: Minden
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CASEY LESSARD/Echo



Above left: Haley Emmerson shows Beatrice and Carl Head of Kennis Lake the nursery at Haliburton's new medical centre during its grand opening Friday. Above right: Dr. Anurad Cooray and his family toured the facilities as well. Dr. Cooray is finishing his residency at St. Michael's in Toronto, and is considering a move to Haliburton. "I want to be near Toronto," he said, "but not in Toronto. I'd like to be within two to three hours of the city. This community seems pretty good, friendly."



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NEW FUNDING PROGRAM FOR ADULTS WITH A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY

As of June 15, 2006, young adults with a developmental disability can apply for a new Ministry of Community and Social Services initiative called **Passport: Funding for Community Participation Supports**. The goal of Passport is to improve the quality of participation in the community for adults with a developmental disability.

If approved for funding, Passport gives individuals the option of receiving funds to purchase community participation supports or they can use the funding to access services through community agencies.

Applicants must be adults who are no longer in school.

Application deadline for the first round of funding is August 31st, 2006.

For more information and an application form contact:
Tri-County Community Support Services at (705)749-6681 ext: 234 or 289
or go online at mcss.gov.on.ca or www.centraleast.info

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Show tunes listeners in to what's fun at JDHES

Producing a weekly Canoe FM program is child's play for these young hosts

JENNIFER WILSON

Staff Reporter

If you've had your radio dial set on Canoe FM recently, chances are you've heard the refreshing and effusive voices of four J. Dodge Hodgson Elementary School students as they chat, review, joke and inform Highland listeners about

anything and everything during SCEED, the quartet's very own weekly-radio program.

The group, made up of Grade 6 students Claire Edwards, Kelsey Curry and Quinn Schell and Grade 5 student Lauren Dixon, were inspired to form SCEED after Lauren had finished a book about a group of kids who'd decided to

blast dull, adult-infiltrated radio with some fresh, youth-saturated shows.

"I thought 'Hey, that would be something cool to do!'" says Lauren. "So I asked the other girls if they'd want to be on the radio, and immediately, everyone was in and excited."

The friends quickly enlisted the time, patience and technical expertise of Lauren's dad, Carl Dixon, who's the new lead singer of legendary rock group The Guess Who, to help make their radio dreams a reality.

"It's been just so enjoyable," says Dixon. "The girls just have so much fun and it has just been amazing to see how mature and competent they are."

The foursome, who named the show after the first letters in their last names with an extra E added in, went into the recording studio in January and have been having fun with their weekly 15-minute program ever since.

"We have a lot of fun whatever we're doing but we consider ourselves very business-like," jokes Quinn. "Usually, when we record in Lauren's house, we

rotate from one person playing with Lauren's bunny and then we switch. We find the bunny really calms our nerves."

The girls have even managed to make SCEED's introduction both spontaneous and reflective of their personalities by deciding on the spur of the moment what voice or character they'll each use to lead into the show.

"At first, we were all a little nervous," admits Kelsey. "But we've gotten a lot better and make it our own by each using a funny voice to introduce the show which usually makes us all laugh at each other in the process."

Unanimously, the quartet, who discusses everything from Disney's flick *Eight Below* (thumbs down) to JDHES track results, say the show's joke portion is "by far" their favourite.

"The jokes are definitely the best part and we have a lot of fun with them," says Claire. "We always seem to find them funny, even if sometimes they maybe aren't."

The group, who try their best to keep

See **Friendships** page 29



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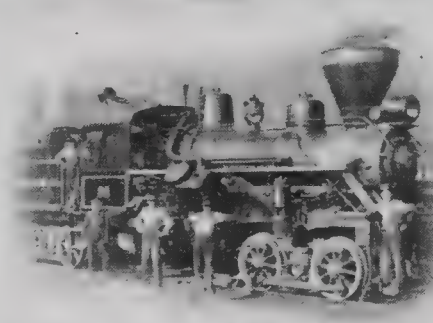
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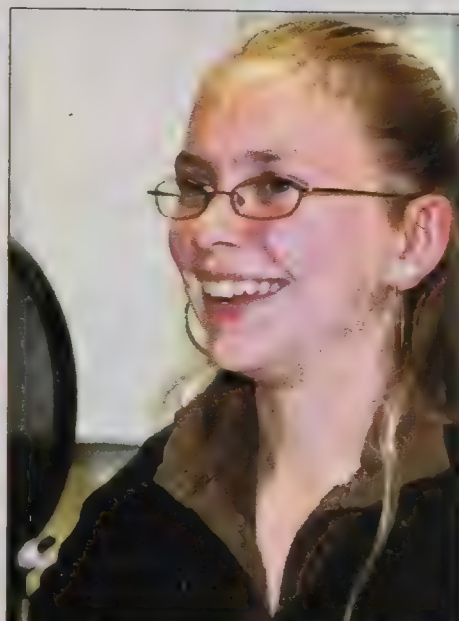




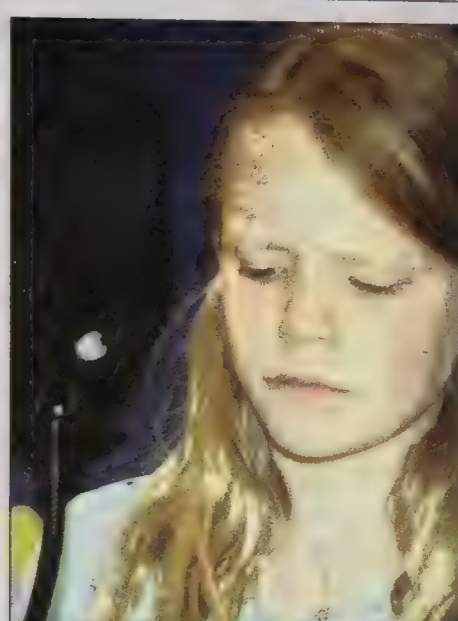
'We have a lot of fun but we consider ourselves very business-like,' jokes Quinn Schell.



Claire Edwards says, 'The jokes are definitely the best part and we have a lot of fun with them.'



'At first we were all a little nervous,' says Kelsey Curry, but making faces relaxes them.



'If there's something kind of boring it's in the best interests of our younger listeners not to cover it,' says Lauren Dixon.

Friendships grow stronger over the radio waves

from page 28

audiences up-to-date with the student-life at JDHES, say although they try to remain objective journalists, they do enjoy their veto-power over some of the show's content.

"If there's a teacher's meeting or something kind of boring like that, we all decide it's in the best interest of our younger listeners not to cover it," jokes Lauren.

Another highlight has been the extraor-

dinary reception and praise from their fellow classmates and peers, especially the ones they thought might prefer "punk or rap" over their show.

"A lot of kids who you wouldn't think would listen to the show come up to us and say they really thought something we did was cool or liked a song we played," says Kelsey. "I like that part a lot because you never would have thought they'd listen or like it."

The group knew they had "made it" when they were shopping in Sharpley's

Source for Sports, "the coolest store in town", and heard their show being played. Although the recognition is great, the best part of SCEED is being able to spend some quality time with one another while doing something they all love.

"For us, the best part is just being able to get together for a couple of hours a week, be goofy and have fun," says Quinn. "I don't think we'd be as good friends if we didn't have the show because we're all so busy so it's some-

times the only time in a week we all get together."

For the quartet, SCEED has become an important part of all of their lives and is something they're planning on sticking with for a long while to come.

"We just love it and we all agree it's something we want to do with for at least a few more years," says Lauren.

SCEED airs weekly on Canoe FM 100.9 EVERY Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 5:30 p.m..



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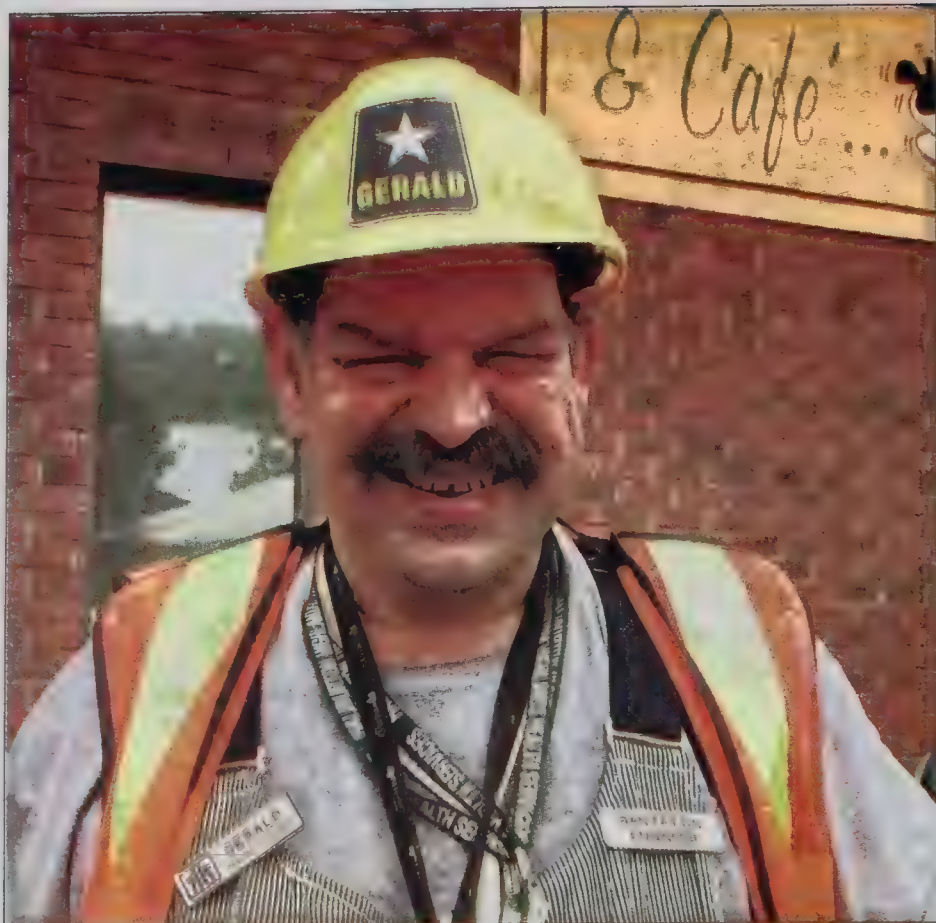
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Gerald McKnight, a gentle soul who calls himself "the garbage man", is the most faithful customer at Village Donuts and Café.

Haliburton's unofficial sanitation engineer

LANCE CROSSLEY

Staff Reporter

One of the most recognizable figures on the streets of Haliburton is Gerald McKnight, a round and hefty 55-year-old man who wears a nametag rightfully describing himself as a "sanitation engineer".

When asked his name, McKnight will commonly identify himself as "the garbage man". Every Thursday he gets paid for sorting through the cardboard recycling of the donut shop, the liquor store, and the pharmacy. On Mondays and Fridays he volunteers to clean up garbage at the hospital. On Wednesdays he volunteers the same services for Fleming College.

McKnight has an intellectual disability, and speaks in short quick bursts, no more than three or four words at a time. His most common greeting is telling people how busy they are by saying, "Busy, eh? Busy" – even if they are just standing around doing nothing. He

dresses the part of sanitation engineer wherever he goes: pinstriped overalls, a bright orange safety vest, and a yellow hard hat. His pockets are stuffed with a half dozen pens, work gloves, and a flashlight. Sometimes you can see him carrying around an old fashioned lunch box.

Friends connect his love of waste management back to when he used to ride shotgun with a company that did garbage collection in the area. It was on a volunteer basis, but he got to throw trash in the truck, and more importantly, was able to scope the happenings in the community.

"One of the things about Gerald that I've grown to love is that it is really important for him to know what is going on around him," says Maureen O'Hara, executive director of Community Living, an organization that provides support for adults with intellectual disabilities that McKnight has been a member of for the last 20 years.

See **Known** page 31

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THE GM COMMITMENT

Known as the most faithful customer of Village Donuts, McKnight arrives daily like clockwork

from page 30

"What better way than driving up high around the county, you get to see everything. He gets to find out about all the accidents, hear about things on the two-way radio. He just likes to know what is going on."

When the garbage company changed hands about five or six years ago, McKnight was no longer able to tag along.

McKnight is most often seen at Village Donuts and Café, which has long been a popular hangout for a handful of Community Living members. Today is Thursday and according to those who know McKnight's routine, he is expected to drop by any moment now. The café is filled with the scent of sugar, pecan butter tarts, and croissants. An elderly woman is reading a book in front of an empty bowl of French onion soup and a package of Premium Plus crackers. A few tables down two senior gentlemen are discussing some municipal political issue over coffee.

Julie Graham, a 22-year-old employee at Village Donuts, says McKnight usually comes here twice a day: once in the morning and once at lunch. It's nearly

noon and she expects him shortly.

"He knows everybody who walks through here," says Graham. "He knows most of Haliburton."

One of McKnight's Community Living friends, Robin Fletcher, is nursing a soda and a date square in the corner. She says they like to come here because of the service and a certain level of comfort they feel.

"We look at this as our hangout," says Fletcher, 43. "People who come here support Community Living."

Steve Dunec, a hotdog vendor on main street, marvels at how McKnight is always on the forefront of the latest news. Whenever there is a death in the community, McKnight is somehow one of the first to find out.

"There's no flies on him," says Dunec. "He's pretty sharp. He knows a lot of people."

Dunec sometimes sees McKnight writing counterfeit parking tickets for offenders who don't put money into the meter. A few years ago, he recalls, some drunk out-of-towners roughed him up when they caught him

writing down their licence plates.

Maureen O'Hara says people can easily misjudge McKnight. He has a thick mustache and usually wears a scowl on his face, but when he opens up he breaks into what she calls a "million dollar smile."

"Gerald is just really a sensitive guy," says O'Hara. "He comes across as this big burly guy, but if anyone he knows is not feeling well or somebody died, he is just a teddy bear. He just feels so bad for them. When somebody dies, he keeps saying, 'Sad, eh? Oh, sad eh?'. He understands that it is a loss. If somebody is at the hospital he gets quite concerned."

McKnight just arrived and appears to be on a mission. He doesn't have time for his afternoon coffee and donut today, and appears to be more concerned with hauling that load of cardboard out back. After doing a brief tour of the café, he says a few hellos and good-byes and is off to work.

"Busy, eh? Busy."



Shifting Gears: Haliburton's Celebration of Cycling held May 27 was a great success!

The Haliburton Highlands Cycling Coalition sends a big 'THANK YOU' to businesses and organizations that supported the event:

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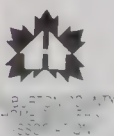
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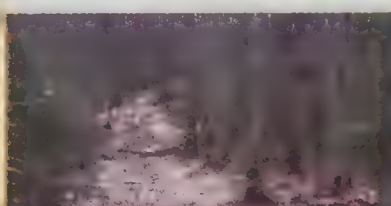
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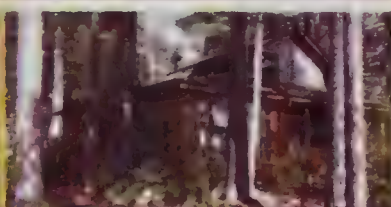


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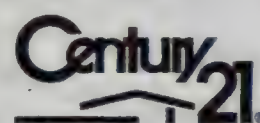
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Absence makes the heart grow fonder

JENNIFER WILSON

Staff Reporter

For Haliburton native Liane Dron, absence certainly does make the heart grow fonder.

The recent University of Waterloo graduate wrote her fourth-year thesis on the topic of long-distance romances, an interest that extends far beyond the classroom for Liane.

"My main motivation for the thesis was I've been in a long distance relationship now for three and a half years," says Liane. "So it's a topic that affects my life daily."

After a year and a half of surveying couples, sorting through data and drawing conclusions, Liane's thesis, called a "huge undertaking" by her academic advisor, was finally complete. Her efforts and intensive research landed Liane a 95 per cent, her classe's top mark, on her thesis entitled *The Importance of Perceived Partner Responsiveness and Motivation in Long Distance Romantic Relationships*.

Although Liane personally holds the belief that the success of any relationship is based on the compatibility of those in it, her findings proved positive for long distance couples.

"I found that for motivation and commitment, it was more pronounced for those in long distance relationships," says Liane.

She says her results show a strong indication that those living further apart from their partner are more willing to take the time to travel and communicate; something she believes strengthens the bonds of any relationship.

"I don't think it matters whether you live in close proximity of one another or are partaking in a long-distance romantic relationship, communication is important for both."

Liane may have learned some valuable lessons from her thesis which could be applied to her real-life romance. After several years of doing the "long-distance thing," Liane and her boyfriend Richard have just recently moved in together.



Liane Dron and her boyfriend Richard Simmons know what it's like to have a long-distance romance. Liane's thesis, *The Importance of Perceived Partner Responsiveness and Motivation in Long Distance Romantic Relationships*, shows that couples who live far from one another make more effort to communicate.

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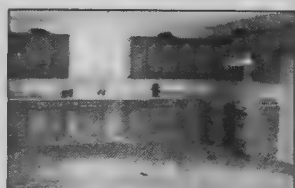
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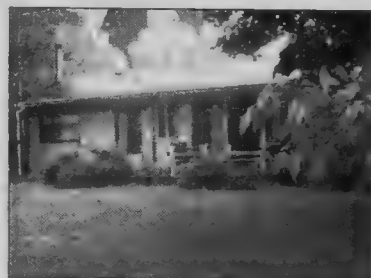
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MOUNTAIN LAKE \$750,000



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Let's play ball in Wilberforce!



The t-ball season has begun in Wilberforce, with teams of three to six year olds playing Thursday nights at the main diamond.

Top left: Taylor Donaldson prepares to throw from third base, which Jamie Lynn Evans (left) has reached during a game of t-ball in Wilberforce; shortstop Brooke Billings is near the base to lend a hand.

Above: third baseman Colin Hatton waits for the play while Laura Casey gives Desmond Davies direction on where to run when the ball is hit.

Right: Hatton relaxes during a break in the action.
Far right: Ethan Evans celebrates after making it to second.

Photos by CASEY LESSARD

Funding changes would benefit small schools

GREG HOEKSTRA

Staff Reporter

Small rural schools and single-school communities could soon benefit from a financial boost.

The Ontario government is considering revisions to the existing per-pupil funding formula.

In a press release issued by the Ministry of Education, a promise was made for "targeted funding towards principals and vice-principals, secretaries and school supplies for every school across the province, no matter how small."

Grace McGartland, chair of the Ontario Coalition for Small Schools, says she applauds Education Minister Sandra Pupatello's strategy to shift thinking and move towards a school-based funding formula.

"We're very pleased to see that small schools have come on the radar scope, because schools are the hub of the community, and they allow the community to grow," says McGartland.

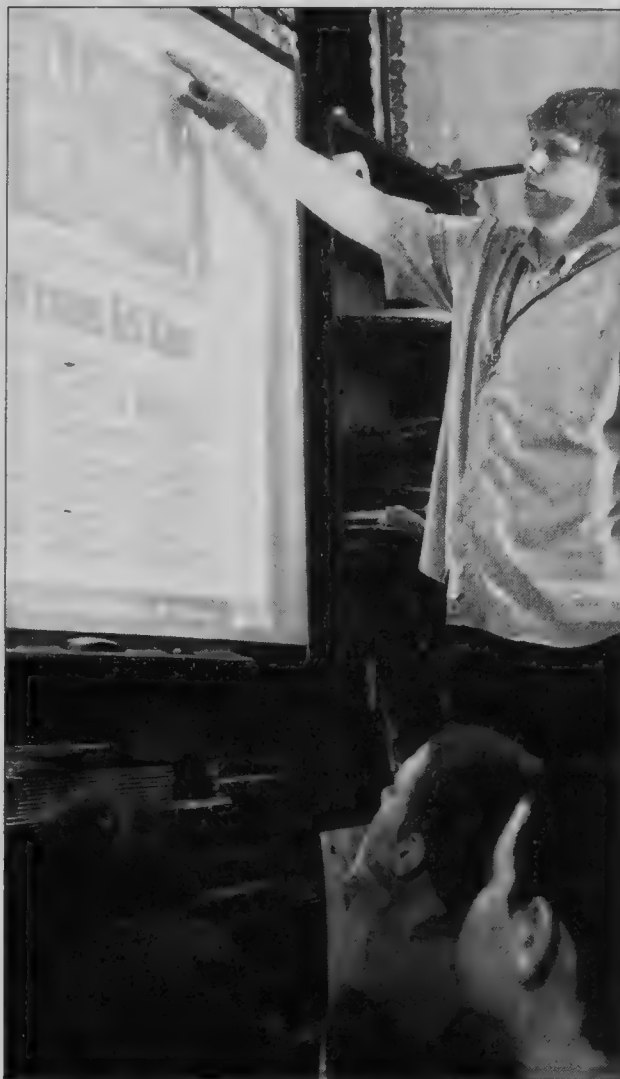
Under the current formula, the number of students enrolled in a school is one of the key factors determining how much funding a school can receive. This means that a smaller school, such as Wilberforce Elementary School, could receive a significantly smaller grant than neighbouring schools with larger student bodies.

In the past, this formula may have been a fair way to determine funding, as smaller schools tended to require less staff and resources than their larger counterparts. But in recent times, the influx of costly educational technologies has made it difficult for smaller schools to stay current.

"You are limited in trying to stay up with all of the latest technology because of the dollars," says Birdie Murphy, principal of Wilberforce Elementary School.

Murphy says that the budget for her school, which houses approximately 80 students, is certainly enough to pay the bills but that it doesn't leave much in the bank for new resources and teaching tools.

"By the time we pay all our standard things like



Wilberforce Elementary School says that if funding were based on needs, not the number students, small schools could afford to buy more smartboards, such as the one used by teacher Mark Stamp.

copiers, telephone, and heating, that doesn't give me much left over, and I still have to buy school materials and text books out of that."

Ideally, Murphy would like to see an increase in expendable money for her school in order to invest in innovative learning tools such as smartboards.

A smartboard (also known as a whiteboard) is essentially a fusion between classic blackboard practicality and modern-day technology. Using a computer and projector, teachers are able to post lessons and exercises on the board, including preloaded math problems, grammar exercises, maps, photos, charts, and diagrams. When a student is asked to approach the board, they can then underline sentences and move objects with the touch of a finger, making the board both interactive and engaging for children.

Murphy says that Wilberforce Elementary School does have one smartboard, but only thanks to Trillium Lakelands District School Board Superintendent Andy Scott, who was able to access more funding and saw to it that every school in his jurisdiction received at least one.

Some larger schools have since dipped into their operating budget and purchased additional smartboards for their classrooms but at a cost of nearly \$5,000, Murphy says Wilberforce Elementary School will have to make do with only one for quite some time.

That is, of course, unless the McGuinty government follows through on its pledge to reexamine the per-pupil funding formula, a move that Murphy says could help bring equality back to the public school system.

"It is very important," she says. "These children deserve and need the same things that other children in larger schools have."

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Broadband opens up county's potential

from page 1

reflection to transmit information, will originate in Lindsay and travel up Highway 35 to Minden, turning east on County Road 21 and finishing at its members' locations.

For the region's municipalities, the technological benefits will put them electronically on par with the larger metropolises.

"It's becoming a necessity to be able to operate today. Even stores, if you don't have Internet in places of business, you're missing out on sales," says Haliburton County Warden Jim McMahon. "Without high-speed Internet, small rural communities are hurting."

For Haliburton County CAO Jim Wilson, the real benefit of the network will be its ability to facilitate communication, something he says will save many "gray hairs."

"I think the big advantage to the network will be the capability to communicate large data files. Currently, we can't do that and it will be a big plus when we can," says Wilson.

Wilson believes the network will be a huge selling point to tourists, businesses and professionals.

"If we have an up-to-date communication network in place, it may help attract medical professionals to the area. Doctors would be able to transmit files and patient information from their office or clinic to the hospital electronically, something they can't do right now."

Already, the network, which is still waiting to receive approval from several municipalities, is being deemed as "essential" for the future prosperity of Haliburton Highlands Health Services.

"This is essential to the hospital. We would need the broadband in order to complement our information technology and our diagnostic imaging," says HHHS CEO Keith Sansford.

Currently, the hospital is in the works to receive new radiography machines which require the technological super-highway known as fibre-optics to transport the machine's digital images from location to location.

"I think it is great leadership on part of the county to do this and we look forward to it being implemented," says Sansford. "It will certainly make our lives a lot easier."

The network's direct and future economic benefits to the county don't end there. With educational methods quickly becoming more and more reliant on technology, the new fibre-optic network will allow teachers and

CASEY LESSARD/ECHO



Dave Taylor, who's in charge of Connect Haliburton, and Phil Thompson of W3 Connex, hope to add to Haliburton County's high speed capabilities by September with a combination of technologies.

students alike access to the latest and greatest technology.

"We use a lot of video conferencing and right now, the clarity is poor and there are delays for Haliburton schools because their connection is too slow. Once the fibre-optic network is installed, they will have the same capability of every other school," says Paula Walton, communications director for the Trillium Lakeland's District School Board.

The ultra-fast network will also help both students and teachers capitalize on their time in the classroom. Waiting times and long downloads will no longer be an issue for Highland schools, allowing for a lot more learning and a lot less waiting around.

"It's going to allow teachers and students better access to learning materials from the board and even web sites that some people just don't have the time or want to take the time to download. It's going to be a huge advantage for the kids and the teachers," says Walton.

The network won't only benefit its members. Haliburton Connect, along with W3 Connex, the hi-tech company overseeing the network's installation, are in the process of re-transmitting the network's signals to provide all county residents, on and off the lake, with wireless high-speed internet at a competitive rate.

"We hope to start by September," says Phil Thompson of W3. "It's our goal to one day in the future provide all

of Haliburton County with wireless Internet.

The company has been receiving a lot of interest about the project and has been compiling lists of interested clients and their demographic locales.

"It's a bit like the cellular phone service," says Thomson. "At first, only a few areas had service, and it has slowly but surely grown to cover a huge amount of geography. We foresee these being the way the wireless Internet will work."

Taylor agrees. He says the network, although primarily built for Haliburton Connect members, has a bright future in the Highlands.

"Really, the network has been built for two main reasons: one, it allows us to respond to the needs of the Haliburton Connect members and, two, it will allow us to provide communications to the bulk of the county, if not all the residents," says Taylor.

The benefits don't stop there. For summer-time cottagers and tourists, Haliburton County's lifeblood, the wireless Internet connection could mean many more lazy summer days on the dock.

"It will mean people will be able to sit on their dock with a laptop and have access to their office through e-mail, instant messaging and Internet conferencing," says Thomson. "This has the potential to easily help someone who usually only takes a week's vacation to stay in the Highlands much longer in the summer months."

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CASEY LESSARD/Echo

The art of fundraising

The Rotary Club of Haliburton helped boost the Rails End Gallery's capital campaign to \$40,000 after donating \$10,000. Saskia Tentrees received the cheque last week from Rotary president Jim Henwood. "It's money that we raised through fundraisers, including the annual carnival," Henwood said. "It's for renovations to the box car and the patio," Tentrees said, "to turn the box car into programming space." The campaign goal is \$200,000.

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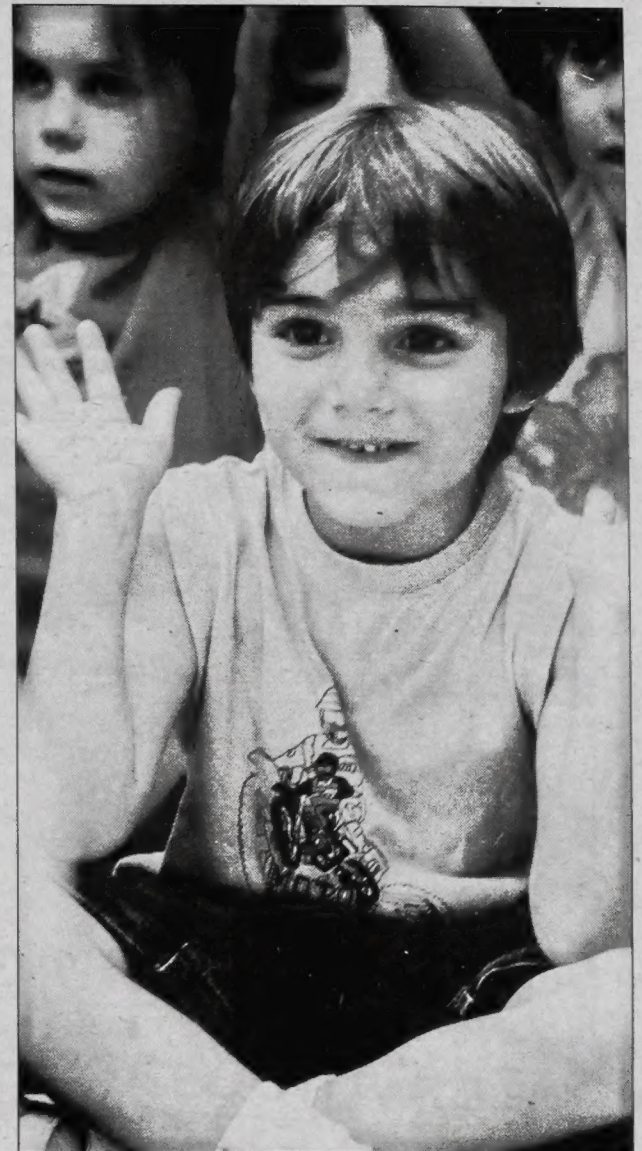
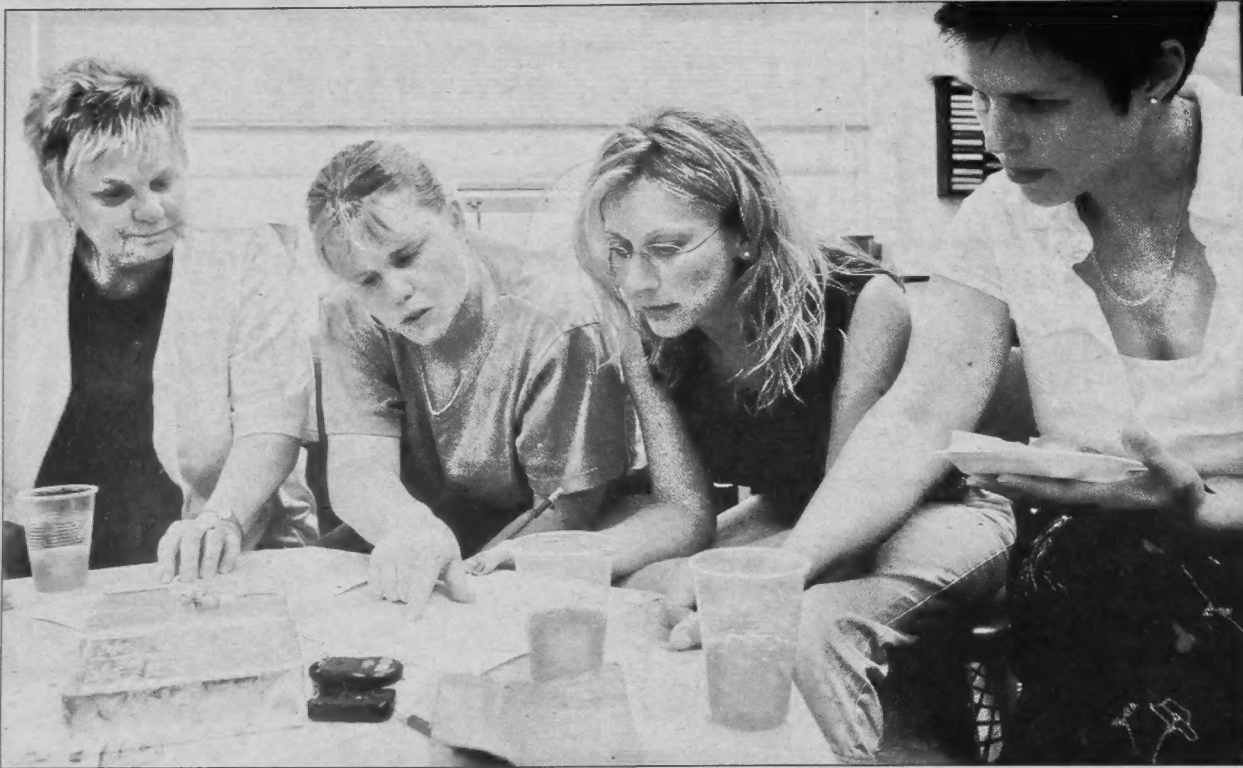
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Take County Rd. #1 to Khashagawigamog U.S. Rd. Follow 4 kms to entrance on left

ALL NEW POWER CART FLEET

more information...

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Thanks, volunteers

Stuart Baker Elementary School has the highest volunteer ratio of all schools in the Trillium Lakelands District School Board, and principal Micheline Roy held a thank you event for volunteers Wednesday. Above: Lorna McCabe, Heather Taylor, Carrie McKay and Allison Hunter play a trivia game to see how well they know the teachers at the school. Right: Carter O'Neill and the rest of the kindergarten class stepped away from their work to show their appreciation, singing songs including the SBES school song and Four Hugs A Day.



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Haliburton Highlands Secondary School

invites you to the
Annual Commencement
to be held in the
Athletic Complex
Friday, June 30th, 2006
at 7:30 p.m.

Everyone is welcome

Mrs. Doris Monahan
Chairperson
Ms. Kathryn Verduyn
Director of Education

*Better
Together*

Mr. Gary Brohm
Principal
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**If you need help contact Robin Savage at
1-888-665-6615 or (705) 328-0472 ext. 28**



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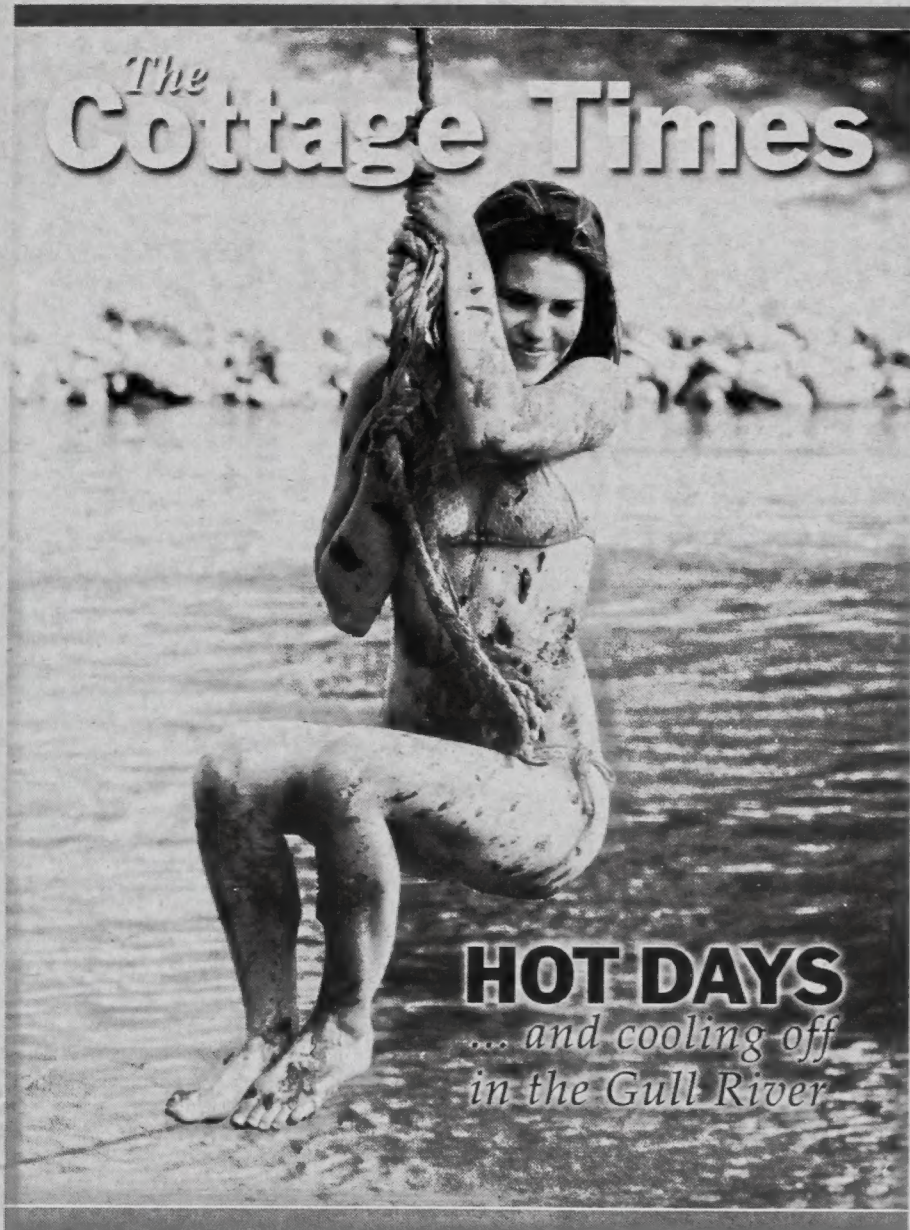
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